

Public Art and Cultural Commission

Minutes for April 25, 2013

Members Present

Jaan Ferree

Honor Moor

Julie Calhoun-Roepnack

Robert Todd

Guillermo Rodriguez

Sharon Trammel

Staff Present

Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director

Basil Punsalan, Cultural Arts Administrator

Murphy Rasmussen, Secretary

Robert called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

1. Approve March Minutes

Guillo moved to approve the March minutes. Julie seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

2. Re-Cap Joint Boards & Commission Luncheon

Robert stated that he attended a meeting of several board chairs including the Historic Resources Commission, Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, and Civic Center Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the city's budget challenges and to encourage all members, not just Chairs, to reach out to other members for assistance, and suggested that all Boards and Commission Chairs meet once a year. This could be a way for the city to rely more on the Boards during this time, rather than hiring more staff.

Robert stated that the annual report for the PACC was presented to council and received good feedback and public support; however the work is not done. Robert added that he and Guillermo attended the recent Town Hall meeting at the Civic Center. Jaan added that she also attended an open forum with Guillermo.

Guillermo stated that at the open forum, participants broke off into smaller groups to discuss budget options, with the option of raising taxes getting the most votes. He added that people are willing to raise taxes rather than lose facilities and quality of life issues. Raising taxes by one cent per \$100 would

increase property taxes by only \$20.00/year (on a \$200,000 home). He added that expenditure options being considered includes defer infrastructure, reducing fire services, and cutting Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts services. Robert urged members to follow up online with any budget issues. Debbie stated that she will send budget documents out to all members.

Robert recapped a National Public Radio report about Iceland's financial issues and how they export music, which is the arts; adding that this is another example to show where the arts can be a driving force.

Honor commented that she is proud of the committee and Robert's leadership, but feels that we need to open it up to the county.

Jaan stated that there is money earmarked to maintain art care. Debbie clarified that that money will be in the new acquisition budget. Robert asked if it is the 1% for art, and Debbie responded that the new capital budget is not included. Debbie stated that maintenance and repair is not on a reduction list and it will continue to move forward as a priority. She added that Urban Trail Station 13 is now a higher priority than originally thought. Jaan stated that a lot of groups in the community don't want to cut the Nature Center, Aston Park, or greenways and that City Council is hearing a lot right now and warned not to rest on our laurels. Jaan recommended advocating over the next two to three weeks to be heard, by writing letters and Honor suggested having at least two friends also write letters. Robert suggested that there should be a direct response to the items slated to be cut. Debbie explained that there is a difference between cutting and delaying items.

Sharon asked Debbie to clarify what is happening right now with the future of the PACC. Debbie stated PACC recently gave its feedback to Roderick regarding PACC consolidating into an alternate board structure such as with the Recreation Advisory Committee. Roderick presented PACC's feedback to the City Council Boards & Commissions Sub-Committee. Since then there has been no further action.

3. Re-Cap Urban Trail Plaque Cleaning Day

Sharon thanked the department for the work on the Urban Trail clean-up day. She did not think they could do this once a year, as it is too difficult to get enough volunteers. Sharon suggested moving the task to later in the summer when it will be warmer, and she said the work needs to be done early in the day to avoid heavy foot traffic. Sharon added that it is good to have a lot of foot traffic so there is the opportunity to explain that the cleaning is done by volunteers. Debbie also thanked the staff from Park Maintenance for their help and hard work.

4. Art Acquisition Update

US Cellular Center Terrazzo Floor

Basil Punsalan shared photos of Terrazzo floors that have been submitted so far to the call for artist. He stated that the call has been open since April 5th but feels staff needs more time to gather designs options. Sharon asked if there are any local artists. Basil responded that he is meeting with one next week and indicated that a local company will be installing the floor. He added that the call will close on

May 5, 2013. Sharon asked if an artist who has no experience might be chosen. Basil responded that the artist would have to work with the stone people, which require a certain amount of previous experience working with stone. Sharon stated she would like to see someone local. Basil responded some local artists have already applied and feels that more will; adding that one artist, with a vast amount of experience, is from Arizona and will suggest that he come to Asheville to look at the venue.

Biltmore Avenue Public Parking Garage

Basil reported the medium to be used for the Biltmore Public Parking Garage project needs more study, adding that the ventilation vents is a concern also to be considered. Basil stated that any hanging art pieces will have to be hung from the upper level. Jaan asked why there are no other options for placement. Basil responded that any future building projects would need to be taken into consideration. Jaan asked if a sculpture would be considered. Basil responded that 3D art is discouraged.

Urban Trail Station 15 Market Place

Basil stated the bench at the station will be removed, shortened and re-installed. Debbie added that Grace Pless of the Urban Trail Sub-Committee will be on the project and will meet with Debbie and Al Kopf to discuss the options on April 30, 2013.

5. PACC Sub-Committee Review

Robert stated since Jennifer Gordon and Gwynne Rukenbrod are absent this item will be rescheduled at the next meeting agenda.

6. Nominating Committee: Chair & Vice Chair 2013-2014

Robert proposed that a nominating committee be established for the purpose of nominating a new Chair and Vice Chair, adding that his term ends in June. Debbie stated that at least two people need to be on the committee and mentioned that there are options as to how formal or informal you want to handle this.

Sharon stated that she preferred the informal approach. Honor will help spearhead the effort but does not want to be on the committee. The nominating committee should be prepared by the June meeting. Guillermo added that between now and June anything can happen and advised to take time.

Guillermo motioned to appoint Honor and Julie to the nominating committee. Jaan seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

7. PACC Monthly Meeting Schedule

Robert asked if there needs to be a time change to the PACC monthly meeting schedule. Sharon stated that her schedule will not allow her to be consistently on time with the schedule we have now. Three options were suggested, 2 are for the 4th Thursday of the month either 12:30 or 4:00 and the third

option is for the 4th Tuesday of each month at 12:30. Robert suggested a poll be taken of all PACC members before a change is made. Debbie will check on the availability of the conference room.

8. Save the Date: Triangle Park Mural Celebration

Robert reported that the dedication and unveiling of the mural will be on May 18, 2013 Asheville Design is sponsoring the mural and is dedicating it to the City. Robert stated that he would like to see representatives attend.

9. Assistant Director Report

Debbie stated that her report was distributed to PACC members for review of the material. Robert asked about the Pack Square Park railing repair and what repair was needed. Basil responded that there needs to be some patch work performed and that the same paint will be used. Debbie added that the person making the repairs prefers to complete the work before it gets too hot and it must be completed by June 30, 2013.

10. Other Business

Honor suggested an informal gathering after this meeting.

Debbie stated that she will not be at the May meeting but will help to prepare for it.

Robert moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Sharon seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.